

ISSUE 32

WINTER 2011

Town Happenings



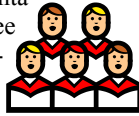
TOWN OF INDIAN HEAD

SMOKE SIGNALS



Annual Tree Lighting Program

- On Tuesday, December 7, 7:00pm. Village Green Pavilion. Holiday music from the bands and choruses from I.H. Elementary, General Smallwood & H.E. Lackey students. Refreshments, Santa & more. Free admission, everyone welcome!



Gingerbread House Making Class

- Celebrating 16 years of fun! Adults and children 5 years and older. Class sizes limited. Pre-registration & payment was required. Fee includes 1 house set, 2 icing bullets & icing bag. Students bring own decorations!



Friday, December 10, 6:30-10:30pm, or Sunday, December 12, 1-5pm, Village Green Pavilion.

Memorial Ribbon Remembrance Ceremony - Saturday December 11, 6:00pm Village Green Pavilion. \$2.00 donation per ribbon or 6/\$10.00. Citizens, non-profit, service, youth, church, school organizations are invited to participate in the Memorial Ribbon Ceremony followed by refreshments in the Pavilion. RSVP participation and ribbon deadline December 9th. Call 240-375-4061 or email Karen@townofindianhead.org for ribbon forms.



Annual Holiday Festival & Craft Fair

- Tuesday, December 14, 6:00pm to 9:00pm, Indian Head Village Green Pavilion. Live entertainment, Hope You Dance children's dance studio, Welcome First Baptist Church WDOGS Puppet Team, Indian Head Baptist Church Hand Bell Choir, The Painter Family Running Antique Trains, Children's Activities, Photos with Santa \$1.00 each, Homemade Refreshments, Hot Apple Cider, Gingerbread House Contest, Crafts for Sale. Admission \$1.00 all ages. All donations and proceeds collected to be given to NETS (Neighbors Eager to Serve) Program.



Annual IH-VFD&RS Santa Run through Town

- Thursday, December 23rd starting around 5:30pm



Annual Christmas Tree Removal

- Every Wednesday, beginning December 29 thru January 26. Place discarded tree curbside with regular yard waste. Tree must be free of decorations.



Holiday Closings - Town Hall, Public Works and Community Affairs will be closed on Friday, December 24th for Christmas and Friday, December 31st for



New Years. There will be NO trash collection on these dates, those areas normally scheduled for Friday pickups will resume with the regular schedule on the following Tuesday, December 28 and January 4th respectively. Yard waste and recycling pickups will remain the same. In case of emergency, please contact the Sheriff's Office District II Station (301)743-2222, so proper town personnel can be notified to handle accordingly.

Meet Your New Community Policing Officer - Monday, January 3, 2011, 7:30pm at the Town Meeting Village Green Pavilion. Don't miss your opportunity to meet the newly assigned

Community Policing Officer PFC Lewis Payne #452. (301)743-5511 x121, paynel@ccso.us.



C.C. Sheriff's Office Home Security Survey & I.H. Volunteer

Fire Dept. & Rescue Squad Smoke Detector Inspection - In less than 30 minutes you can gain peace of mind! How? By contacting the I.H. Community Affairs/Community Policing Office to schedule a free home security survey & smoke detector inspection. Detectors can be installed at no charge. Security and Fire Safety tips will be offered by certified police and fire prevention officers. It's FREE, FAST, EASY & Worth it! Don't delay call 301-743-5511 ext. 121 today!



Mayor's Message by Ed Rice

The reductions in funding from the state have begun. We received notification that the 90% cut in our highway user funds has been extended for at least another year. Let's hope we don't have another record snow fall this winter. We were also directed to implement a significant unfunded mandate regarding stormwater management. This mandate is related to efforts to clean up the Chesapeake Bay. We were fortunate to have the state provide funds to upgrade our wastewater treatment plant as part of the Bay program, but no help is forthcoming on stormwater management. The state apparently wants us to shoulder the financial burden on this. Just how we are going to do this is under study.

As you are undoubtedly aware, we went through another exciting state and local election in November. Precinct 7-2 in Indian Head had a good turnout, but it could have been better. Nearly 1,000 voters out of a total of about 1,800 registered voters turned out. The 55% turnout compared favorably with other precincts in the County. The flow of voters was steady but light most of the day. Late in the afternoon, however, a voter surge the likes of which has never been seen in the pavilion occurred. From late afternoon until the polls closed there were long lines both at check in and at the machines. It was a pleasure to see so many voters making their choices known. Judging by the final results, it appears that candidates must be Democrats to be elected to office in the County. It was another sweep like the one four years ago. If you missed this election, shame on you. Be sure to make the next one, which, by the way, is our Town Council election on May 3, 2011.

Your Council is making it a priority to make certain that the new Commissioners are aware of what goes on in Indian Head and what help we may need. We will pay particular attention to keep Commissioner President Candice Quinn Kelly and District II Commissioner Debra Davis informed.

We have begun to more aggressively address the problem of vacant buildings in Town. In the past we tried to use the State's Attorney's Office to handle the legal aspects of this endeavor because there would be no legal fees to pay. It has become obvious that this approach was not working. Our Town Attorney has set up a system of

notification and response that he will be able to pursue in the courts. The first five notification letters have been mailed to building owners. We expect to see more timely results soon.

We are very pleased to see the recent activity in Town regarding new businesses. At a time when other communities are seeing businesses close, we are experiencing new business openings. Panda Café next to the Town Hall opened to good reviews and modifications to the new Dollar General Store building are proceeding rapidly. Both Family Dollar and Dollar General hope to be open for the Holiday Season. We hope that these new businesses will bring new consumers into Town which will in turn attract new small businesses.

We wish you a Happy Holiday Season full of peace and joy.



TOWN OF INDIAN HEAD OFFICIALS / BOARDS / PERSONNEL

Mayor

Edward "Ed" W. Rice

Council

Dennis J. Scheessele, Vice Mayor
Margie A. Posey, Councilwoman

Town Manager

Ryan L. Hicks

Planning Commission

Richard Allen, Chair
Warren Bowie
Racheal Hall
Mary Thompson
3 Open Seats

Board of Zoning Appeals

John Bloom, Chair
Rose Chase
Edward Joell
Rickie J. Posey
2 Open Seats

Economic Development Commission

Peggy Palmer, Chair
Thomas Boone
Dave Dixon
Bonnie Hochman-Rothell
Pam Hundley
Mike Jones
Rick McArdle, Base Representative
Betsy Wallman
Open Seat - Town Business Owner

Town Hall Staff

Awilda Hernandez
Executive Assistant/Clerk of Council
Ginger Foster
Finance Officer
Diane Campbell
Deputy Finance Officer
Karen Williams
Community Affairs
PFC Lewis Payne (#452)
Community Police Officer
Richard Wilcher
Code Enforcement
Annie Hood
Office Assistant
Pat Chase
Public Works Superintendent
Eric Woodland
Shop Foreman
EAST, Inc.
Water/Wastewater

Town Website

www.townofindianhead.org

Fire Department By: Chief Jeff Williams

With the upcoming holiday full of family, food and good times many families gather to share these joyous times together. However, this time of year can be one the most dangerous and devastating for fire damage, injuries and even deaths. Here are some Winter and Holiday Fire Safety Tips to help make this a safe time of year for you and your family.

Did you Know?

- About 3,500 Americans die each year in fires and about 20,000 are injured.
- 80% of all fire deaths occur in the home.
- According to the United States Fire Administration (USFA), fires occurring during the holiday season claim the lives of over 400 people, injure 1,650 more, and cause over \$990 million in damage annually.
- Smoke alarms increase your chance of surviving a fire in your home by 50%.
- Every home should have at least one smoke alarm installed on each floor.
- Per manufacturers specifications, all smoke alarms should be replaced every 10 years.

Cooking Safety:

Cooking equipment, most often a range or stovetop is the leading cause of reported home fires and home fire injuries in the United States. Cooking equipment is also the leading cause of unreported fires and associated injuries this time of year. Here are some cooking safety tip to help keep you and your family safe in the kitchen.

- The leading cause of fires in the kitchen is unattended cooking.
- Be sure to stay in the kitchen when you're frying, broiling or baking any food. If you must leave the kitchen for even a short period of time, have an adult watch the cooking or turn the stove off.
- If you're simmering, roasting or broiling, be sure to check your cooking regularly and use timer to remind you of cooking times.
- **STAY ALERT!** Be sure to be well rested and try to stay away from alcohol to reduce your chances of fatigue and altered mental status.
- Be careful around the burners and

heating elements, keep all potholders, oven mitts and other combustibles away from the heat.

- Wear short, close fitting or tight rolled sleeve when cooking. Loose clothing can dangle over the stove burners and can on fire.
- If a fire on the stove occurs, please remember the following:
 - Stay calm
 - Smother the fire by placing a lid on top of the pan
 - Turn the burner off and allow the pan to cool completely before removing it from the stove
- If a fire occurs in the oven, leave the door closed as fresh air will can cause the fire to accelerate and turn the oven off and allow it to cool completely before opening the door.

Home Heating:

The leading cause of residential fires during the winter months is heating appliances and the misuse of these devices. The following are some safety tips that need to be observed when using any form of heating devices within your home.

- Be sure to follow the manufacture's operating and maintenance instructions.
- When buying a space heater, be sure to look for the UL or FM testing laboratory label. This ensures the heater has been tested by a safety laboratory and certified.
- Ensure the heater is equipped with an emergency tip-over device. This will ensure that if the heater is knocked or tipped over it will shut off automatically. This is one of the safety laboratory requirements.
- Be sure to use only the appropriate fuel in these heaters, using the wrong or inappropriate fuels can lead to an explosion, fire and serious injury.
- If you use a fireplace for heating your home be sure to have it professionally cleaned and inspected each year.
- Always use a fire screen and burn only appropriate materials.
- Be sure to properly dispose of the ashes in a metal container and store it away from your home.

Continued on page 4

American Legion Meeting

2nd Wednesday of each month - 8:00pm
Senior Community Center
301-283-0105

Western Charles/Indian Head Chapter 126 of the National Association of Retired Federal Employees (NARFE) meets the 1st Thursday of each month (Except July & August) 301-743-9445 or 301-743-3055

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

St Mary's Star of the Sea Church

Sunday Services 7:30, 9:00 & 11:00am
Saturday Services 5:00 pm
Confessions Saturdays 4:00 to 4:30pm
Special Devotions 7:30am mass on the 1st Friday and 1st Saturday of each month

Indian Head Baptist

Sunday School 9:15am
Sunday, Morning Worship 10:30am
Sunday Bible Study 6:00pm
Thursday Prayer Meeting 6:30pm

St James Episcopal

Sunday 8:00, 9:15 & 10:30am
Sunday School 9:45am

Indian Head Church of the Nazarene

Sunday School 9:45am
Sunday AM Worship 11:00am
Sunday PM Worship 6:00pm
Wednesday Adult Bible Study 7:00pm

Indian Head United Methodist Church

Sunday School 9:30am, Worship 11:00am

Indian Head Assembly of God

Sunday Prayer 9:15am & 5:30pm
Sunday School 10:00am
Sunday Worship 11:00am & 6:00pm
Wednesday Bible Study 7:00pm

Greater Spiritual Fellowship Community Church

Sunday School 9:30am
Sunday Worship 11:00am
Tuesday Discipleship Training 7:30pm
Thursday Bible Study 7:30pm

Congregation SHA'ARE Shalom

Services 1st Friday, 2nd Saturday & 4th Saturday every month. 301-645-4606

Fire Department By: Chief Jeff Williams

By following these simple safety tips for home heating, you also reduce the chances of exposing you and your family to Carbon Monoxide Poisoning. Carbon Monoxide is an odorless and tasteless gas that can make you and your family members sick and can even cause death.

Carbon Monoxide is caused by the incomplete combustion of fuel products such as fuel oil, propane, natural gas and even the log in your fireplace. If you heat your home with any of these types of fossil fuels be sure to install a Carbon Monoxide Alarm in your home these devices can be purchased at any hardware and department stores such as Walmart or Target. These devices should be placed in the sleeping areas of the home and be electric with a battery backup to ensure they work in the event of power failure.

Holiday Fire Safety Tips

The holiday season is full of busy days and nights for all. This time of year is suspect to many short cuts to meet the required time frames and schedules for us all. We get some busy and caught up in the hustle of this time of year that we tend to pay less attention to the details and take many shortcuts when decorating for the season. The following are some fire safety tips to help make this time of year a safe and enjoyable time for all.

Christmas Trees

- When using a live Christmas tree be sure to choose a freshly cut one. The needles should be green and hard to pull off the branches.
- Tap the tree on the ground and see if the needles fall off, if they do the tree has begun to dry out and could be a severe fire hazard.
- Before setting the tree up, cut 1" to 2" off the trunk to allow the tree to draw water more evenly.
- Be sure to use a stand with a base for better balance and a deep water reservoir to immerse the trunk.
- Be sure to check the water level daily and add water as needed.
- Keep the tree away from all heat sources such as fireplaces, heat registers and portable heaters to prevent it from drying out.
- Be sure to set the tree up out of traffic areas to prevent it from being knocked over and from blocking your exit from the home in the event of an emergency.

- Be sure to dispose of your tree properly before it dries out by taking it to a recycling center or having it hauled away by a community pick-up service.
- If you are using an artificial tree, be sure that it has the UL or FM label on it.
- NEVER use candles on a Christmas tree.

Decorations:

- Be sure to purchase only UL or FM approved indoor and outdoor lighting and decorations.
- Be sure all electrical cords are in proper working condition with no frayed or damaged areas.
- Never attempt to repair any lighting or extension cords, this could cause a fire due to a short circuit.
- Never overload electrical outlets, all the manufacture's strongly recommend not to link more than three, (3) strands of lights together on one extension cord or power supply.
- Be sure to connect all lighting to the extension cords before plugging the cord into an outlet to reduce a power surge on the electrical system.
- Check all wiring periodically, they should never be warm or hot to the touch. If they do become warm or hot, you should disconnect them immediately and replace them.
- Never Leave holiday lighting unattended.
- Be sure to turn off or unplug all lighting and decorations when you're not at home or go to bed.

The Indian Head Volunteer Fire Department & Rescue Squad would like to wish everyone a Happy and Safe Holiday Season. By following these basic safety tips, you and your family enjoy Fire Safe Holiday season. For more information or if you have any questions, contact the Fire Station at 301-753-9400 or 301-743-3900.



Indoor Yard Sale/Flea Market - Saturday December 4 from 7:30am until 12:30pm, at the Indian Head Volunteer Fire Department. Come

browse the tables in air conditioned comfort! Kitchen will be open, bake sale on site, tables available for \$10 each. For more information call Nancy 301-753-9722 or Mary 301-743-7080.

Wrap & Roll Days - Hate to wrap Christmas presents? Bring them to the Indian Head Volunteer Fire Department on December 4 and 19 from 10:00am to 2:00pm. We'll wrap them for you while you wait, large variety of papers. Prices as low as \$2.50 per item. All funds go to support the Fire Department & Rescue Squad and are tax deductible!



Drive-Thru Fried Chicken Dinner - Monday December 6 from 10:30am until 1:30pm, at the Indian Head Volunteer Fire Department. Menu: 1/2 fried chicken, parsley potatoes, green beans, roll, butter and beverage. \$8.00 plate, carry out only. Call ahead to place your order 301-753-9400 / 301-743-3900.



Texas Hold'em Tournament - Friday December 17. Doors open 6:00pm, play starts 8:00pm. Pay-out determined by number of players. Registration \$150 (\$5,000 in chips). Add-on first hour of play \$40 (\$2,000 in chips). Register before 7:30pm and receive an extra \$1,000 in chips. Must be 18 to play, 21 to drink, ID required. Open to the first 160 players. Sodas, beer, snacks and hot sandwiches provided with registration fee, mixed drinks \$1. Side tables available when doors open. Call 301-753-8011 (leave message) or email poker@ihvfd.com.



Boards, Commissions & Committees

These Boards and Commissions assist the Town Council in carrying out its responsibilities. They are staffed by volunteers and are very much a part of the decision making process. If you would like to join one, please fill out the application and return it to: Clerk of Council, Town of Indian Head, 4195 Indian Head Highway, Indian Head, MD 20640 or via fax: 301-743-9008. This application is also available on the Town's website at www.townofindianhead.org under Boards, Commissions and Committees.

Board of Appeals: Hears and makes decisions on applications for variances, special exceptions and appeals. **Meetings held on an as needed basis. (Currently there are two open seats)**

Board of Supervisors of Elections: Conducts all municipal elections; serves as the Town of Indian Head Elected Officials Ethics Commission for matters regarding ethics provisions that pertain to any elected official of the Town. **Meetings held on an as needed basis. (Looking for three new members and two substitute members for the May 2011 Town elections)**

Planning Commission: Reviews all subdivision plats and major construction in the Town, and makes recommendations to the Town Council on requests for zoning amendments. **Meetings held the third Tuesday of each month at 7pm. (Currently there are three open seats)**

Economic Development Commission: Offers recommendations to the Town Council on potential growth and development of the Town. **Meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month at 7pm. (Currently there is one open seat - Town Business Representative)**

Community Activities Committee: Assist with organization and staging of special community events. **Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month at 7pm.**

Application on Page 6



Holiday Greetings

from

Town's

Community Activities Committee

Next Meeting-Tues. Jan. 11, 2011

Community Action Group

Next Meeting-Wed. Jan. 12

Planning Commission

Next Meeting-Tues. Jan. 18

Economic Development Commission

Next Meeting-Wed. Jan. 19

No meetings held in December 2010



Boards, Commissions and Committees Application

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY

I am interested in serving on one of the following three (3) Boards/Commissions/Committees.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone Number: Day: _____

Cell: _____

Evening: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Occupation _____ Employer _____

Education/Experience _____

Volunteer and/or Community Involvement _____

What do you feel you can contribute to the Town that may not be evident from information already on this form? _____

Have you served on one of our Boards and Commissions previously? If yes, please indicate the name and year.

Name _____ Year _____

Signature _____ Date _____

IMPORTANT NOTICE: Applicants/Members must be residents of the Town of Indian Head except as specifically noted in the Town Code. Information submitted as part of this application is available and shall be considered public information as it pertains to the Public Information Act. If you do not wish to have personal information (such as addresses and phone numbers) released to the public, please check the "CONFIDENTIAL" box below.

☐ **CONFIDENTIAL** (I do not want my personal information made public)

Town of Indian Head Useful Information

Holiday Closings

Town Hall, Public Works and the Community Affairs Office will be closed on the following day this quarter in observance of the holiday listed:

Christmas Eve
Friday, December 24
New Years Eve
Friday, December 31
Martin Luther King Day
Monday, January 17, 2011
Presidents Day
Monday, February 21, 2011

If you have a water or sewer emergency after hours, call 301-743-2222 to report your emergency. On-call Town personnel will be contacted and the problem will be handled accordingly.

If your regular trash collection day is on a scheduled holiday, your next trash collection pickup will be on your next regularly scheduled collection day. For example, if your regular trash day is Monday, your next pickup will be on Thursday. If your trash day is Tuesday, your next pickup will be on Friday. Yard waste, which is collected on Wednesdays, is not affected.

After hours non-emergency type problems can be reported by leaving a message on the Town Hall office number 301-743-5511. Be prepared to furnish your name, address, phone number and brief, but detailed description of the type of problem. Water cut-offs for non-payment are not considered emergencies and are only handled during Public Works regular business hours.

Town Codes

- **Burning**—No burning is allowed within the Town limits.
- **Animal Control**—Dogs and cats must be kept on the owner's property unless properly restrained. The Charles County Animal Control provides animal enforcement within the Town. Call 301-932-1713 if you have a problem.
- **Abandoned or Inoperative Vehicles** are prohibited within the Town and may not be kept on the street for more than 24 hours or on private property, with certain exceptions. Call Code Enforcement at 301-743-5511 ext. 101 with any questions.
- **Property Maintenance**—Every dwelling and lot shall be kept free from trash and garbage. Weeds and grass must be cut and kept shorter than 10 inches.
- **Building Code**—The Town has an adopted building code. Any new construction or remodeling, including, but not limited to porches, fences, sheds and garages, requires inspection and a building permit from the Town.

Town Meetings

1st Monday every month at 7:30 p.m. at the Village Green Pavilion. Televised 8p.m. first two Fridays each month on Channel 190 following the meeting.

Town Hall

Office Hours
Monday - Friday
8:30 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.
Phone Numbers
Ofc: 301-743-5511
Fax: 301-743-9008

Recycling/Yard Waste

Solid waste products such as glass jars and bottles, newspapers, plastic bottles and metal cans will be picked up at the curb every Wednesday within the Town of Indian Head. Place these items in your recycling bin—no need to separate them.

Yard waste will be collected on Wednesdays, year-round, weather permitting. Grass clippings and leaves must be placed in brown paper bags or in a trash container marked "Yard Waste" and placed at curbside. Brush must be bundled and must not be any longer than four feet (4') in length. Individual pieces of brush must not be any larger than six inches (6") in diameter. There is no additional charge for these services.

Utility Rates

The Town bills for utilities on a quarterly basis. Please make note that you will be receiving a bill four times a year (July, October, January and April). **You are encouraged to make an estimated payment monthly toward your quarterly bill.** For more information you can call Town Hall at 301-743-5511

Water & Sewer Rates

Minimum rate for all residential customers \$ 70.40
(per dwelling unit per quarter) plus
\$6.85 for every 1,000 gallons used

Minimum rate for all commercial customers \$ 212.80
(per unit per quarter) plus
\$6.85 for every 1,000 gallons used

Bay Restoration Fee

\$7.50 to State of Maryland Comptroller's office for the Bay Restoration Fund

Trash Rates

Residential/Multiple Residential Rate: \$ 73.00 (per dwelling unit per quarter) - Billed quarterly for two (2) times a week curb-side pickups and one (1) recyclable products pickup per week.

Commercial Rate

Category I Dumpster (4cu yds) \$490.00 per qtr

Category II Maximum 2 cans \$93.00 per qtr
(per unit)

Each additional can \$46.00 per qtr

All residential and commercial units within the Town of Indian Head shall avail themselves of the Town's curb-side trash collection service.

Happy
Holidays
from the
Town of
Indian Head!



TOWN OF INDIAN HEAD

4195 Indian Head Highway
Indian Head, MD 20640
Phone: 301-743-5511/301-753-6633
Fax: 301-743-9008
www.townofindianhead.org

PRSRT STD
U.S. Postage Paid
Waldorf, MD
Permit No. 10059

Current Resident

«Address» «Address1»

«Address2» «Address3»